CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A multifunction peripheral configured to perform the steps of:

2   requesting device-related information from a network device over a network;

3   receiving device-related information from the network device over the network;

4   generating a device-related report based on said device-related information; and

5   sending said device-related report to a recipient device.

1   2.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is

2   configured to perform the step of generating the device-related report based on said device-

3   related information based at least in part on the recipient device.

1   3.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further

2   comprises a faxing module and the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step

3   of sending the device-related report by sending the device-related report via fax using the

4   faxing module.

1   4.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further

2   comprises a network connection and the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform

3   the step of sending the device-related report by sending the device-related report to an

4   electronic faxing service over the network connection.

1   5.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further

2   comprises an email module and wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to

3   perform the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient device by sending said

4   device-related report to the recipient device via email using the email module.

1   6.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further

2   comprises a hypertext transfer protocol module and wherein the multifunction peripheral is

3   configured to perform the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient device by

4   sending said device-related report to the recipient device via hypertext transfer protocol using

5   the hypertext transfer protocol module.

1   7.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further

2   comprises a secure hypertext transfer protocol module and wherein the multifunction

3   peripheral is configured to perform the step of sending said device-related report to the

4   recipient device by sending said device-related report to the recipient device via secure

5   hypertext transfer protocol using the secure hypertext transfer protocol module.

1   8.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further

2   comprises a file transfer protocol module and wherein the multifunction peripheral is

3   configured to perform the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient device by

4   sending said device-related report to the recipient device via file transfer protocol using the

5   file transfer protocol module.

1   9.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further

2   comprises an encryption module and wherein multifunction peripheral is further configured

3   to perform the step of encrypting the device-related report.

1   10.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further

2   comprises an identification module and wherein multifunction peripheral is further

3   configured to perform the steps of retrieving an identifier for the multifunction peripheral and

4   augmenting the device-related report with the identifier for the multifunction peripheral.

1   11.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is

2   configured to perform the step of requesting device-related information from a device at

3   regular intervals.

1   12.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is

2   configured to perform the step of requesting device-related information using the simple

3   network management protocol.

1   13.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 12, wherein the multifunction peripheral is

2   configured to perform the step of receiving device-related information from the network

3   device using the simple network management protocol.

1   14.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the device-related information

2   comprises one or more of device information, device status, meter reading information, and

3   consumables information.

1   15.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is

2   further configured to perform the step of accepting user configuration input, and wherein the

3   user configuration input relates to one or more aspects of the collection of device-related

4   information from the network device by the multifunction peripheral.

1 16.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is

2 further configured to perform the step of accepting user configuration input via a remote

3 interface, and wherein the user configuration input relates to one or more aspects of the

4 collection of device-related information from the network device by the multifunction

5 peripheral.

1 17.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 15, wherein the multifunction peripheral is

2 further configured to perform the step of requesting device-related information from a device

3 at intervals defined by the user configuration input.

1 18.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 15, wherein the multifunction peripheral is

2 configured to perform the step of generating the device-related report based in part on the

3 user configuration input, and wherein the multifunction peripheral is further configured to

4 perform the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient device at an interval

5 defined by the user configuration input.

1 19.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further

2 comprises a means for executing instructions of a java application and the steps are

3 performed by instructions of a particular java application.

1 20.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the network device is a second

2 multifunction peripheral.

49986-0535 (RSID 1-431)

1   21.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the recipient device is one of the

2   group consisting of a fax machine, a computer, and dedicated hardware executing one of the

3   group consisting of an email client, an http server, and https server, and an ftp server.

1   22.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is

2   configured to perform the step of:

3   requesting a second set of device-related information from a second network device

4   over a network, wherein the network device is distinct from the second

5   network device;

6   receiving the second set of device-related information from the second network

7   device over the network;

8   generating the device-related report based on said device-related information and said

9   second set of device-related information; and

10   sending said device-related report to the recipient device.

1   23.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is

2   configured to perform the step of:

3   accessing a second set of device-related information from the multifunction

4   peripheral;

5   generating the device-related report based on said device-related information and said

6   second set of device-related information; and

7   sending said device-related report to the recipient device.

1   24.   The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is

2   configured to receive an acknowledgement over the network from the network device.

49986-0535 (RSID 1-431)

1   25.   A multifunction peripheral configured to perform the steps of:

2   requesting meter data from a second multifunction peripheral over a network;

3   receiving meter data from the second multifunction peripheral over the network;

4   generating a meter report based on said meter data; and

5   sending said meter report to a recipient device.

1   26.   A multifunction peripheral comprising:

2   means for requesting meter data from a second multifunction peripheral over a

3   network;

4   means for receiving meter data from the second multifunction peripheral over the

5   network;

6   means for generating a meter report based on said meter data; and

7   means for sending said meter report to a recipient device.

1   27.   A multifunction peripheral comprising:

2   means for requesting device-related information from a network device over a

3   network;

4   means for receiving device-related information from the network device over the

5   network;

6   means for generating a device-related report based on said device-related information;

7   and

8   means for sending said device-related report to a recipient device.